

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 9 has been amended to correct a typographical error and claims 17, 18, and 19 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Office Action at pages 12-13, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 4, and 12 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17, 18, and 19 present this allowable subject matter. New claim 17 contains the limitations of base claim 1 (prior to the Amendment filed October 4, 2004) and claim 3. New claim 18 depends from new claim 17, and contains the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 4. New claim 19 contains the limitations of independent claim 9 (prior to the Amendment filed October 4, 2004), dependent claim 11, and dependent claim 12. As these claims have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

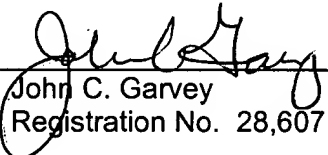
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10-26-04

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501